

# **READINGS ON NO-FAULT DIVORCE**

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## DIGEST

This compilation of selected materials relative to no-fault divorce and its impact on children was gathered at the request of Assemblymember Martha Escutia, Chair of the Assembly Judiciary Committee. A brief introduction relates the history of state grounds for divorce and state divorce rates. Other topics include demographic information on divorce rates and family composition, the impact on children, current comparative state legislation, proposals to strengthen marriage and selected articles which present divergent opinions about research findings and reform proposals. The Assembly Judiciary Committee report on *Divorce Reform in California: From Fault to No-Fault...and Back Again?*, offers an excellent summary. Associated topics explicitly not included in the requests include child and spousal support and property division.<sup>1</sup>

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Professor Ira Mark Ellman and Oxford University Press for the article, "Why Reformers Should Look Instead to the American Law Institute," from *International Journal of Law, Policy and Family*, 1997.

Gale Research for "Grounds for Divorce" section from National Survey of State Laws, 1996.

William A. Galston and National Affairs, Inc. for the article "Divorce American Style" from Public Interest, Summer 1996.

The Packard Foundation for the section on *The Future of Children: Children and Divorce* and the article "Epidemiology of Divorce" by Patricia H. Shiono and Linda Sandham Quinn.

Francine Russo and *The Atlantic Monthly* for the article "Can the Government Prevent Divorce?," 1997.

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<sup>1</sup> For a useful summary of state divorce law relating to fault, property and alimony see Ira Mark Ellman, "The Place of Fault in Modern Divorce Law," *Arizona Law Journal*, Vol. 28, No. 3, Fall 1996, pp. 773-837